

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 to the following:

*Dist. Cl*

1. (Amended) A method of reducing zones of high tensile stress in the surface of a part comprising the steps of:

*Q. variable*

selecting a region of the part to be treated; and  
exerting pressure against the surface of the selected region, the pressure being applied such that the magnitude of compression decreases in the direction towards the boundaries of the selected region to minimize the effects of any tensile stress zones near the boundaries.

Please amend Claim 9 to the following:

*Dist. Cl*

9. (Amended) A method of reducing high tensile stress zones in the surface of a part comprising the steps of:

selecting a region of the part to be treated; and  
programming a control unit of a burnishing apparatus to perform a burnishing operation, the burnishing operation being performed such that the density of burnishing and the magnitude of compression are varied to reduce the high tensile stress zones along the boundaries of the selected region.

*by varying the pressure exerted against the surface of the selected region*

REMARKS

The Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated April 19, 2001. The Applicant submits that the objection to the specification for failing to describe element 138 has been noted. The Applicant respectfully submits that reference number 138, shown in FIG. 10, was inadvertently placed on the drawing. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the number 138 be removed, as indicated in red on the attached drawing submitted herewith for approval. The objection to the specification for defining D(x) as the "density of burnishing" (page 13, line 15) and describing it